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Asia's First University of the Millenium Celebrates 10 Years of Education

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NEWS RELEASE

ASIA'S FIRST UNIVERSITY OF THE MILLENNIUM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Singapore, 15 January 2010 – Singapore Management University (SMU) today marks the new decade of the 21st century with its 10th Anniversary Celebrations on its Patron's Day 2010.

SMU Patron, His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, President of Singapore, graces the evening celebrations, commemorating the occasion along with Minister for Education, Dr Ng Eng Hen, invited guests, and SMU students, staff, faculty and alumni.

His Excellency, President Nathan, said, "SMU has come a long way since it started in 2000. With a state-of-the-art city campus, an experienced and committed faculty, as well as a holistic curriculum, SMU has rapidly made a mark for itself with graduates who are confident, articulate and equipped with the skills to excel in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. The University has also produced some students who have a strong sense of social responsibility and who are generous in giving back to the University and society through various ways, ranging from setting up scholarships and bursaries for fellow students, helping the disadvantaged here and elsewhere, to the protection of wildlife. SMU has achieved much in just a few short years. I congratulate SMU on your 10th anniversary, and wish the University many more successful years ahead."

Entering the higher education space as the first government-funded private university on 12 January 2000, SMU has been dubbed a "change agent" and a catalyst for innovation, redefining the university landscape in Singapore in the last decade. Engendering an entrepreneurial spirit, SMU grew rapidly in a short span of time and pioneered a number of firsts - from its hallmark American-styled pedagogy of small, interactive seminar-style classes, holistic admissions system, broad-based curriculum, global-oriented education, multi-disciplinary learning and research, to its autonomy in university governance and administration and ability to impact society meaningfully.

From some 300 students and one school in a single building, today SMU has some 7,000 undergraduates and post-graduates, and six schools in its 4.5-hectare city campus. As testimony that SMU's unique pedagogy and goal to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs with a strong sense of social responsibility has worked, close to 100% of the university's 5,000 alumni found employment upon graduation and remain sought-after by employers across industries. Many of the alumni have even started businesses of their own and also applied the ethos of contributing back to society in their personal and professional lives.

With a firm foundation for undergraduate education in place, faculty across its six schools and 16 research centres and institutes continue to generate new practical knowledge through research. Twelve master's programmes in areas such as wealth management, applied economics and Singapore's first Juris Doctor programme and five PhD programmes, enable the advancement of knowledge and education. The level of research generated, shared and applied by an institution the size of SMU reflects its impact on, and successful interface with, the business community and society around its city campus.

"A university is built on the simple idea of people coming together to learn more about the world and to make it a better place. In less than a decade, SMU has grown from an idea on the drawing board to a vibrant university known for generating new practical research and educating future leaders who can respond in a rapidly changing world. I am truly proud to have been associated with this university in one way or another for almost eight years; five and a half as President. I hope that those gathered 90 years from now to mark the centennial of SMU will be pleased with the foundation established in this first decade as they celebrate the birthday of one of the world's leading research and teaching universities," said Professor Howard Hunter, President, SMU.

"We have come a long way in ten years, bringing university education to a new threshold but we would not have been able to do it without the support and conviction of so many of you – our students and alumni, faculty, staff, parents, employers, donors, partners and friends from the government and private sectors, and the wider public. Thank you. However, a decade is just a blip in the history of a university. We must uphold the SMU spirit that has brought us this far and remember who we exist for, who we serve, and what we stand for," said Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman, SMU Board of Trustees.

SMU's 10th Anniversary Celebrations kick off with the arrival of President Nathan at 6pm. Invited to take a walk down memory lane with SMU student leaders and experience the vibrant life of an SMU undergraduate, he will be presented his very own SMU matriculation card and a gift specially created for him by SMU students. Tributes are made to the resourceful and determined Development Taskforce, led by SMU founding Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping, for their shaping of the university today; to then-Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan, for his vision for SMU to be a different university; as well as to friends, supporters and donors of the university. Capping the special evening on a high note are the screening of a commemorative video specially produced by an SMU student, celebratory student performances, as well as the release of three giant balloons, bearing well-wishes for the university from the SMU community and guests, five metres into the air.

SMU celebrates its 10th Anniversary throughout 2010 with forums, lecture series, conferences and many other major events. Alumni and students have also initiated a car decal campaign and interactive web pages, where students, alumni, staff, faculty as well as friends and supporters of the university can all celebrate throughout the year by contributing well-wishes and anecdotes, photographs or videos of their memories at SMU.

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Annex 2 – SMU Milestones

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Annex 4 – 10th Anniversary Celebrations alumni and student campaigns

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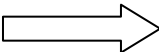
About SMU Patron's Day

SMU was incorporated on 12 January 2000. Celebrated with its patron, President S R Nathan on campus, the university's birthday has been designated Patron's Day. A much-anticipated annual celebratory tradition for the SMU community, Patron's Day is held on a Friday in the middle of January each year.

About Singapore Management University

Incorporated on 12 January 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) aims to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. The University is known to be a pioneer for its interactive pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes which remains its unique hallmark. Today, SMU is home to some 7,000 students and comprises six schools: Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Accountancy, School of Economics, School of Social Sciences, School of Information Systems and School of Law. SMU offers Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes in business and management-related areas, ranging from Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Wealth Management, Law, Information Systems and Social Science. It also has a dedicated Office of Research, several research institutes and centres, and provides public and customised programmes for working professionals through Executive Education. Collaborations with leading institutions, including The Wharton School, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago, allow SMU to draw on academic and research strengths across all major disciplines. The SMU campus is a state-of-the-art facility located right in the heart of Singapore's civic and business district. www.smu.edu.sg

Facts & Figures

2000/2001		2009/2010
306 students		7,000 undergraduates and postgraduates 5,000 alumni
37 faculty		300 faculty
82 staff		263 staff
One undergraduate degree		6 undergraduate degrees 17 masters and doctoral degrees
One building, one school		4.5ha city campus, six schools, 16 research centres and institutes

Graduate Employment

For a young university, SMU graduates have done just as well, if not better than graduates of the other local universities. According to the annual Graduate Employment Survey:

- 100% of graduates from the Class of 2004, 2005 and 2006 found jobs within six months of graduation
- Close to 100% did so for the batches who graduated in 2007 and 2008
- In the most recent survey for the Class of 2008, SMU's Economics graduates (Cum Laude and better) had the highest starting salaries across all local university graduates

Community Service

From the start, SMU's goal has been to develop leaders with a strong sense of social responsibility. Every student has to complete 80 hours of community service.

More than 7,500 SMU students have completed 80 hours of community service; 60 per cent of students exceed that requirement.

As of Aug 2009, SMU students have collectively volunteered 854,500 hours. This translates to more than 290 years of an individual providing an eight-hour day of volunteer service.

In giving wholeheartedly, SMU students have touched communities locally and abroad. One group has even been named sons and daughters of the city of Concepcion in the Philippines. The giving continues even after they graduate. Some of the SMU Alumni have incorporated the element of social responsibility into their own businesses; while others have gone on to set up non-profit organisations.

SMU Milestones

January 1998	Then-Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan announces the establishment of SMU as Singapore's third university focussing on business management.
March 1998	Appointment of SMU Development Team.
February 1999	SMU and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania sign collaboration agreement.
July 1999	Professor Janice Bellace takes office as first President of SMU. Professor Tan Chin Tiong is appointed SMU Provost. Later appointed Deputy President in 2007.
January 2000	Official incorporation of SMU. Mr Ho Kwon Ping is appointed Chairman, SMU Board of Trustees. Groundbreaking of SMU's interim campus at Evans Road.
March 2000	The late Mr Lim Kim San is appointed SMU Chancellor.
July 2000	Inaugural Convocation for pioneer batch of 306 students. SMU's first school - the School of Business – commences.
November 2000	SMU launches the School of Accountancy. Classes commence in August 2001.
January 2001	SMU celebrates its first Patron's Day with SMU Patron, HE Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore.
August 2001	SMU launches the School of Economics (then known as the School of Economics & Social Sciences). Classes commence in August 2002.
September 2001	Professor Ronald Frank takes office as second President of SMU.
January 2002	SMU moves into former University of Singapore campus in Bukit Timah.
March 2002	SMU begins construction of city campus with groundbreaking ceremony.
July 2002	Dr Richard Hu is appointed second Chancellor of SMU.
September 2002	Entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr Li Ka-shing donates record S\$19.5 million to SMU. SMU library and Li Ka Shing Endowed Scholarships named after him.

November 2002	SMU launches the School of Information Systems. Classes commence in August 2003.
May 2004	SMU receives landmark gift of S\$50 million from Lee Foundation. School of Business and university-wide scholars programme named after the late Dr Lee Kong Chian.
July 2004	First Commencement as pioneer intake of SMU students graduates.
September 2004	Professor Howard Hunter takes office as SMU's third President.
July 2005	SMU makes symbolic move to new permanent home in the city.
January 2006	SMU city campus is officially opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.
January 2007	SMU launches the School of Law. Classes commence in August 2007.
April 2007	School of Social Sciences (formerly School of Economics & Social Sciences) is established.
March 2008	Mr Yong Pung How is appointed Pro-Chancellor of SMU.
July 2008	Professor Rajendra K Srivastava takes office as Provost and Deputy President (Academic Affairs) at SMU.
October 2008	Mr J Y Pillay is appointed Pro-Chancellor of SMU.
August 2009	Tenth Academic Year begins with record intake of 1,800 undergraduates.
January 2010	SMU celebrates 10 YEARS OF EDUCATION.

10th Anniversary Celebrations Patron's Day 2010

Singapore Management University
Friday 15 January, Campus Green

- 5.45pm Arrival of SMU Patron
 His Excellency Mr S R Nathan
 President of the Republic of Singapore
- Student Life Exhibition:
 A Walk to Remember
- 6.30pm Welcome address by Professor Howard Hunter
 SMU President
- Speech by Mr Ho Kwon Ping
 Chairman, SMU Board of Trustees
- Speech by Mr Lim Kong Wee
 Valedictorian, Graduating Class of 2004
- Commemorative Video
- Students' Celebratory Performance:
 CONTENT: CONTENT- CELEBRAT10N
- 7.10pm Reception
- SMU-ASEAN Artist Residency Exhibition:
 CONTENT: Navigating a Point
- 8.30pm End

10th Anniversary Celebrations alumni and student campaigns

The SMU CONNECT10N **Car Decal Campaign**



Make the SMU Connection today!

SMU is taking its 10th anniversary celebrations to the road.

To mark the SMU spirit of collegiality, SMU students, faculty, staff and alumni will receive the special 10th Anniversary celebratory car decals to display on their vehicles and recognise fellow SMU drivers when on the roads.

Starting from February, 5 lucky SMU car owners will be spotted each month until December 2010 and will win S\$50 each. Winners can opt to donate the amount back to SMU. Winners are announced on the SMU 10th Anniversary anniversary (www.smu.edu.sg/10) and SMU Alumni Association (www.smuaa.org.sg) websites.

An initiative by the SMU Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Office.

SMU 10th Anniversary “Share your memories” and “Well-wishes” webpages

What do you remember most about SMU? Friends, professors, the food, the seminar rooms or a course you took? Or Sports Fiesta, student leader elections campaigns or freshmen teambuilding camps? Did a student, staff or faculty member make a lasting impression on you? Or was there an event or occasion you attended as a guest which you enjoyed tremendously at SMU?

The SMU community, as well as friends of the university are invited to celebrate SMU's 10th Anniversary by sharing their memories of the place and its people. Contributions in the form of photos, penned anecdotes or videos and even notes of encouragement or well-wishes are welcomed.

So far, some 100 contributions from senior management, pioneer faculty, even SMU Patron President S R Nathan, have been posted on the websites memories.smu.edu.sg and wellwishes.smu.edu.sg.

The "Share your Memories" and "Well-Wishes" webpages are part of a special project by SMU10, a team of Lee Kong Chian Scholars from SMU's 10th intake of undergraduates, for the SMU community and friends of the university to celebrate 10 years of education at SMU.